



Photo by Todd Berenger

60 years late

Col. Hank Andrews, left, presents the Legion of Merit to William W. Hahn for his service to the Air Force throughout 1942-1945. Hahn enlisted in the Air Force during World War II and joined the 57th Fighter Group, also known as "First in the Blue." In April 2003 Hahn received the Legion of Merit award, 60 years late, through the U.S. Postal Service and without being formally recognized for his efforts.



Photo by Michael Kleiman

Country singer visits Veterans Affairs

Country singer Aaron Tippin, right, performs a few of his hits during a visit to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Sept. 13. Tippin and his band performed three songs and signed autographs for over 100 patients, staff and visitors.

AFMC Command Chief visits

Chief Master Sgt. Vickie Mauldin, Air Force Materiel Command Command Chief, visits Thunderbird Inn Dining Facility, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Ceremony and the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony today.

Mauldin advises the AFMC commander on the welfare, effective utilization, education and progress of the command's nearly 20,000 en-

listed Airmen. She is also the quality of life advocate for command Airmen and their families.

Mauldin entered the Air Force in August 1974. She has served in numerous commands as an avionics technician, instructor and manager at squadron and group levels.

Prior to this assignment, Mauldin was the command chief master sergeant for Headquarters Third Air Force and U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

AFMC commander honors Prisoners of War, Missing in action

BY GEN. GREG MARTIN

AFMC Commander

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB Ohio (AFMCNS) - Numbering more than 93,000 and dating to the first World War, they came from different states, walks of life and social status. Despite their differences, they were sworn to the same cause - freedom - and suffered the same fate.

You can find their names listed in the Defense Department's Prisoner of War - Missing in Action files. They're the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who gallantly went into harm's way and have yet to come home.

I don't know these men and women personally. I'm not sure if they were married, had children or exactly what their lot in life was. I do know these warriors are listed as missing in action from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm and all other conflicts where American service members were involved.

Many Americans made the ultimate sacrifice in those conflicts, and others were captured and taken as prisoners of war. These heroes endured torture, suffering and pain simply for being Americans.

Some of them have been scarred for life. Others may have come home with less permanent trauma.

But for the thousands whose remains have not been returned or are unaccounted for, the situation is worse. Many families still wait for news of their loved one's fate - any shred of information. Did they suffer? Was it quick? Could they still be alive? We'll never know how great the load they bear.

On Sept. 19, National POW-MIA Recognition Day, we should take time to show the family members and former POWs we remember and are thankful for the sacrifices made for the cause of freedom, and that we'll not settle for anything less than a full accounting of those souls still unaccounted for.

POW-MIA recognition ceremonies will be held throughout the nation and around the world. I encourage each of you to take time away from that day's business to reflect and honor the sacrifices made by former prisoners of war and their families.

It is my hope and prayer that all those still missing will someday be accounted for. Until that day comes, let us not forget.

Air Force launches 2003 Climate Survey Oct. 1

BY RICHARD SALOMON

Air Force Manpower and Innovation Agency Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFPN)—Air Force leaders at all levels want to know, "How is my organization doing?" The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey begins Oct. 1 to answer this question with the help of Air Force people.

Their participation in the survey is critical, said senior leaders.

"Leadership must be made aware of what's really going on out there," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. "By taking a few brief moments to fill out this survey, you can help your leaders understand your concerns and ultimately better serve you and our nation's interests."

This year, the survey also includes the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, non-appropriated fund civilians and students in a temporary-duty status.

"We want to make sure all members of the Air Force team have an opportunity to participate," said Lori Marcum, the survey's team leader. "Leaders at all levels use the Air Force Climate Survey to target areas for improvement. In order to create positive changes within an organization, (leaders) must know where to begin. This survey provides everyone an opportunity to speak out about strengths and areas for improvement in their organization."

The survey runs through Nov. 23 and can be completed online at <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> anytime during the survey period from either a government computer or personal computer.

Because Air Force leaders expect candid

feedback, the survey team has taken extraordinary measures to ensure privacy by using advanced information-masking software. Anonymity continues to be a key factor of the survey, officials said.

Results will be released early in 2004, said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff.

Survey participation has climbed from 39 percent in 1997 and 36 percent in 1999 to more than 65 percent of active-duty airmen and civilians in the 2002 survey.

The 45th Space Wing at Patrick AFB, Fla., used the data from the 2002 survey as a powerful tool for change. Patrick's leaders created a performance plan called START for "Synchronize actions," "Trust people," "All accountable," "Recognize achievement" and "Tenacious execution."

The plan emphasized mentoring and individual development. It provided mission focus with clear and measurable goals, according to base officials.

Even though the base scored high in most factors, base leaders wanted to make life at Patrick even better, said Judy Nicholson, START director.

The base introduced monthly civilian commanders' calls and created a civilian-oversight recognition team. Leaders rewrote the rules on the quarterly awards process to focus more on performance than additional duties.

"START is a direct result of the Air Force survey, so we place a great deal of value on the survey data," said Brig. Gen. J. Gregory Pavlovich, 45th Space Wing commander. "Because of the survey, we've been able to make improvements at all levels, from top to bottom."



Photo by Dennis Carlson

Master Sgt. Dianne Lue asks a question during the Town Hall meeting. Medical appointments, traffic safety and housing privatization were among issues discussed.

Town Hall meeting emphasizes safety, privatization

BY 2ND LT. KELLEY FINCHER
377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Medical appointments, traffic safety and housing issues were the primary concerns voiced by base residents at Kirtland AFB's Town Hall meeting.

The following topics were highlighted in the Sept. 10 briefing:

Housing privatization

★ Housing Privatization is experiencing a problem with vandals stealing items from new construction sites. Hottest items include cooling units and landscape and fencing materials.

"If you hear of, or see suspicious activity, please, report it to security forces," said Joseph Lujan, housing privatization project manager.

★ Lujan also reviewed demolition and completion dates for housing privatization, all of which are available at the Kirtland Family Housing Web site, www.kirtland.af.mil/Organizations/CivilEngineer/Housing/cehsghome.html.

★ Kirtland Family Housing, LLC, now provides second trash cans for \$8 a month, paid quarterly. The additional containers are the same size as current trash cans and are available by calling 232-2049.

★ Next spring marks the beginning of the Kirtland AFB "Yard of the Month" program. Awards and judging criteria will be announced early next year.

★ Recreational vehicles, whether it be campers or four-wheelers, are still not permitted in base housing drive-ways.

"If it is found you have any of these, you will get a friendly reminder asking

you to remove the vehicle within 24 hours," said Robert Lue, property manager for Kirtland Family Housing, LLC.

★ Family Housing also asks that residents perform oil changes and other auto maintenance at the Auto Hobby Shop and not in their driveway. Lue says the potential of fluids reaching sidewalk gutters poses hazardous materials and health concerns.

★ Residents using base mowing services are asked to remove hoses and lawn ornaments one day prior to their scheduled mow. In accordance with the city ordinance, avoid watering lawns 10 a.m.-6 p.m., limit watering to 30 minutes, and try not to water the sidewalks.

"Concrete doesn't seem to grow very well in New Mexico," joked Lue.

Safety and traffic flow

★ "On F and G streets alone, we have almost one accident a day," said Wayne Ragan, 377th Air Base Wing chief of Safety. "That is quite strange being that they are both one-way streets."

F and G streets run along either side of the Consolidated Support Building on the east side of the base. Ragan said the most frequent accidents occur while pulling in and out of the post office or vehicles being T-boned while attempting to turn off the one-way from the incorrect lane.

★ For the two weeks, one lane of Wyoming Blvd will be closed during construction around the fire department. Ragan asks drivers to pay special attention now that F and G streets will be used as detours, creating more traffic than usual.

★ Lt. Col. Keith Harris, 377th Security Forces Squadron commander, discussed traffic violations posing the greatest threat to Kirtland AFB residents.

"Those same things that we see happening outside the base are now being brought on the base."

Speeding in housing areas and school zones were the greatest offenses, a sentiment shared by both base authorities and residents. On Power Line Road, a gravel road which runs behind the Sandia National Laboratories complex and the base dump, security forces clocked cars traveling at 50 mph; twice the posted speed limit. In one hour, security forces issued 22 citations.

★ Other violations on the rise are running red lights, "California" stops and parking lot accidents; most notably customers backing up at the BX and Commissary.

★ Harris also reminded residents of a current supplement to traffic regulations that limits noise, usually loud music, projecting from cars to no further than 50 feet from the vehicle.

Open access

★ Though still in its transitional phase, Open Access appointments at the 377th Medical Group are finally becoming a reality.

"Instead of having to book an appointment three weeks in advance, we're trying to get you in as quick as possible, like today," said Maj. James Wooten, Group Practice Management Flight commander.

Wooten said the benefits of Open Access are fewer "no-shows" and rescheduled appointments due to short-notice events (such as deployments

and down days). Prior to Open Access, patients were usually assigned the first available doctor. Now, patients are more likely to be seen by their Primary Care Manager.

Wooten said the program should flush out any of its problems within the next few months.

Albuquerque Public Schools Highland Cluster

★ Albuquerque Public Schools is building three new elementary schools, including one outside the Eubank gate. As Col. Steven Bower, 377th Air Base Wing Vice Commander explained, parents need not worry about impending changes.

"If you are living on Kirtland AFB, the changes as a result of the new boundaries will not affect you. If anything, attendance at your child's school will go down."

★ The completion of the Kirtland AFB Housing Privatization project will have only minor changes to base housing school assignments. Residents currently living in Zia Park, with children attending Wherry Elementary will eventually send their children to Sandia Base Elementary. Residents in Maxwell will continue sending their children to Kirtland Elementary.

★ The Highland Cluster Principal Leader, Niki Dennis, described improvements to Kirtland area schools. Some of the programs include gifted student classes, science classes by teleconference with Rutgers University of New Jersey, and non-exclusionary policies, meaning students wanting to take honor classes may do so even if they lack the academic requirements.